



**January 10, 2021**

**St. John's United Church of Christ**

*As believers in Jesus Christ, we strive with unconditional love and selflessness – using our God given gifts – to provide a nurturing shelter for those seeking a Christian home. We offer opportunities for spiritual growth through worship, education, fellowship, prayer and Christian action throughout our community and the world.*

**Called by God  
Sharing with the World**

**January 10, 2021**  
**The Baptism of Christ**

**Gathering**

**Meditation**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:  
Come ye who hear, Brothers and sisters draw near, Praise him in glad adoration.

**Chimes**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**      Your Grace Still Amazes Me - Phillips, Craig and Dean  
                         Ally Murphy, solo

**Opening Hymn**      Holy Spirit Living Breath of God  
                                 Verse 1  
                                 Holy Spirit living Breath of God  
                                 Breathe new life into my willing soul  
                                 Let the presence of the risen Lord  
Come renew my heart and make me whole  
Cause Your word to come alive in me  
Give me faith for what I cannot see  
Give me passion for Your purity  
Holy Spirit breathe new life in me  
                                 Verse 2  
                                 Holy Spirit come abide within  
                                 May Your joy be seen in all I do  
                                 Love enough to cover ev'ry sin  
In each thought and deed and attitude  
Kindness to the greatest and the least  
Gentleness that sows the path of peace  
Turn my strivings into works of grace  
Breath of God show Christ in all I do

Verse 3

Holy Spirit from creation's birth  
Giving life to all that God has made  
Show Your power once again on earth  
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways  
Let the fragrance of our pray'rs arise  
Lead us on the road of sacrifice  
That in unity the face of Christ  
May be clear for all the world to see  
CCLI Song # 4779872

## Lifting up our Joys

## Passing of the Peace

### ✠ Call to Worship Psalm 29: 1-9

**Leader:** Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

**People:** **The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God Of glory thunders, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is majestic.**

**Leader:** The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon leap like a calf, Sirion, like a young wild ox.

**People:** **The voice of the LORD strikes with flashes of lightning. The voice of the LORD shakes the desert; the LORD shakes the Desert of Kadesh.**

**All:** The voice of the LORD twists the oaks and strips the forests bare. And in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

## ✠ Opening Prayer

Dear loving and preserving God: we come to you this morning aware of the majesty of your power and your word. We come to you reassured that you will hear us when we call to you. We know that you are never far from us, that your Holy spirit resides with and in us, yet we often act like we are alone with the challenges we face. We come to you today to pray that we become more aware of your constant presence and love. That we rejoice in your word and grace. That today and all days we live in the constant reassurance that we are never alone but that we live and breathe and have our being in you alone. Amen

## ✠ Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

**We confess to almighty God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*Silent pause for reflection*

## ✠ Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends in Christ if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive Our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. This is God's gift to us and the world so that we can know abundant life.

**Bible Readings**      *Acts 19: 1-7*      *Mark 1: 4-11*      Tracey Holler

**Children's Message and Blessing**      Trena Murphy

**Today's Message**      *Verses*      Kay Jones

## ✠UCC Statement of Faith

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify: He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death. He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself. He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races. He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory. He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him. Amen.

## Prayers of the People

### Prayer of Our Savior *(unison)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we  
forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us  
from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory  
forever. Amen**

## ✠ Giving our Gifts to God

### ✠ Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God all creatures here below.**

**Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.**

**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## ✠ Sending Forth and Final Blessing

### Closing Hymn

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

O sing a song of Bethlehem

Of shepherds watching there

And of the news that came to them

From angels in the air

The light that shone on Bethlehem

Fills all the world today

Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth

The angels sing always

O sing a song of Nazareth

Of sunny days of joy,

Oh sing of fragrant flowers' breath,

End of the sinless boy:

For now the flowers of Nazareth

In every heart may grow;

When faith has heard the masters word,

False peace upon the soul.

When Jesus came to Jordan

To be baptized by John

He did not come for pardon

But as the sinless One

He came to share repentance

With all who mourn their sins

To speak the vital sentence

With which good news begins

## ***Worship Leader: Kay Jones***

### ***Blessings to you from St. John's United Church of Christ in Orwigsburg.***

*Make Handwashing a Time of Prayer: Washing our hands for 20 seconds is one of the ways to reduce the spread of the COVID virus. How long is 20 seconds? That is sometimes hard to track. However, there is a way that combines adequate handwashing and praising God. The Doxology that we sing during worship, (it starts with "Praise God from whom all blessings flow...") takes approximately 20 seconds to sing. By choosing to sing the Doxology each time we wash our hands we mentally shift our focus from the challenge of living within a pandemic to thoughts of gratitude and the blessings God has bestowed. Focusing on these positives in the midst of our challenges improves our health and wellbeing. Thanks be to God.*

*The Bible Study for women: "Tis well: walking away from anxiety and into God's world" will now be done as an email study. We will post some readings and reflections once a week and people can respond to all on the email list for discussion. We have heard from a number of people who do not do zoom but who are interested. Please email Kay Jones at [kjones8022@aol.com](mailto:kjones8022@aol.com) to participate. The day and time will be set by those who join.*